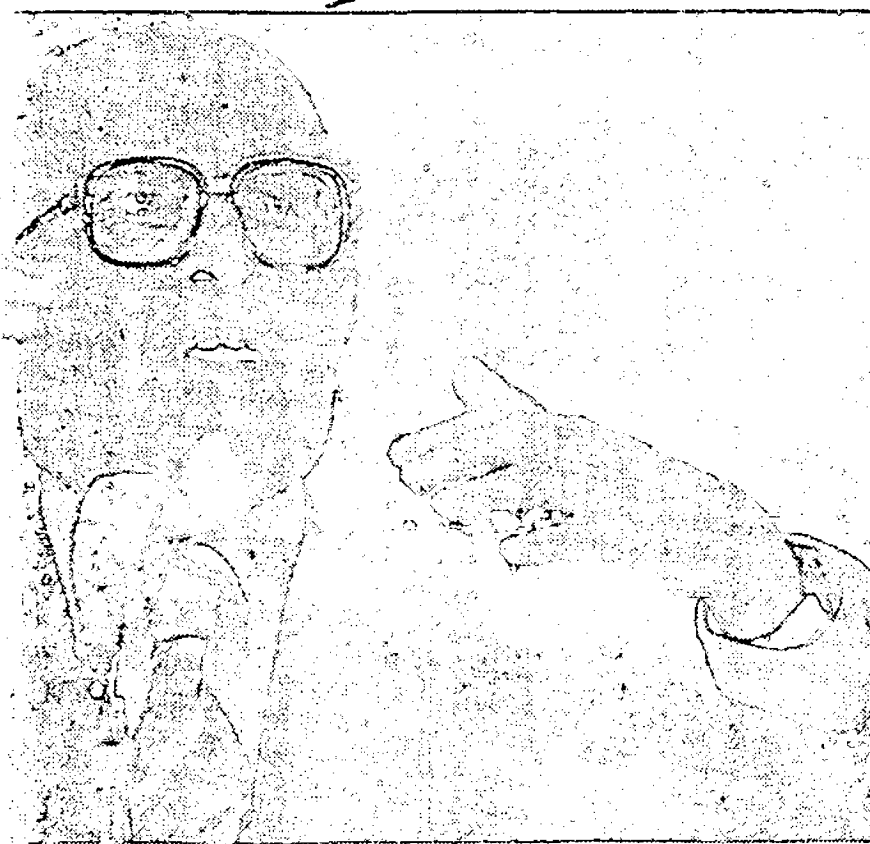


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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1981



United Press International

Defending Israeli raid on Iraq during news conference yesterday in Jerusalem

SOVIET CHARGES U.S. ABETTED ISRAEL RAID

Tass, Official Press Agency, Says
Washington Was Accomplice
In 'Act of Gangsterism'

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, June 9 — The Soviet Union charged today that the United States was a direct accomplice in the "act of gangsterism" by Israel when it bombed a nuclear reactor in Iraq on Sunday.

The accusation was in a statement by Tass, which the official press agency said it had been "authorized" to make. This is a qualification reserved for pronouncements directly from the Government.

"The bandit raid by Israeli aviation on the capital of Iraq is resolutely condemned in Soviet leading circles, and they hold that responsibility for it is borne by Israel and the United States of America, which arms the aggressor and gives it every support," Tass declared.

The "authorized statement" followed a stream of attacks on the Israeli raid in Soviet press and broadcast commentaries, with repeated allegations that the Reagan Administration was advised of the raid in advance and sanctioned it.

No Indication of Aid for Iraq

The Soviet commentaries, however, made no reference to the Soviet-Iraqi friendship treaty, suggesting that Moscow had no immediate plans of combining its denunciations of Israel and the United States with concrete offers of assistance or support for Iraq.

Although the advanced radar planes that the United States has supplied for the protection of Saudi Arabia are patrolling the Persian Gulf area far from the raid site, the Soviet press suggested that they constituted evidence of collusion between Israel and the United States since they did not detect the Israeli attack.

"This act of gangsterism is a link in the long chain of Tel Aviv's crimes of which the ruling circles of the United States of America are direct accomplices and in effect inspirers," Tass charged.

It said billions of dollars and the latest in American equipment were flowing from the United States to Israel to finance "Israeli aggression," including the jets used to attack the Iraqi reactor.

The Tass statement made no reference to Washington's denunciations of the Israeli raid. Earlier reports circulated by the press agency described these as "only a measure to prevent a possible stormy reaction on the part of Arab countries."

Defends Attack on Reactor

Baghdad residents "are innocent people," he said.

"It is our ethics and always has been: fight the good fight, but armed men against armed men. Never use arms against innocent and unarmed civilians."

"We faced a terrible dilemma," Mr. Begin said. "Should we now be passive, and then lose the last opportunity, without those horrible casualties amongst the Baghdad population, to destroy the hotbed of death?"

He ridiculed assertions by France that the \$275 million reactor, first ordered in 1973, was merely for research and the generation of electricity, noting that Iraq had purchased enriched uranium of the type used in the bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima at the end of World War II.

To prove his point, the Prime Minister quoted from an official Baghdad newspaper, Al Thawra, of Oct. 4, 1980, several days after planes reported to have been Iranian had damaged the facility: "The Iranian people should not fear the Iraqi nuclear reactor," Mr. Begin read, "which is not intended to be used against Iran, but against the Zionist enemy."

"Well," Mr. Begin said, "what does it mean, 'To be used against?' Should that reactor be for peaceful purposes, let us say for electricity, how can electricity be used against anybody, whether Iranians or Israelis?"

With just three bombs of 20 kilotons, he said, "They could have destroyed completely utterly the Dan district the

Lowering his voice, he continued: "There won't be another Holocaust in history. Never again, never again. We shall defend our people with all the means at our disposal. We shall not allow any enemy to develop weapons of mass destruction against us."

Asked whether Israel would bomb again if Iraq rebuilt its reactor, Mr. Begin quipped that by that time, "I will not be here anymore, so I cannot give you my reply to this question."

"You will have to get in touch with me, but in a different place," he said, "so then perhaps I will be able to answer. But what I can tell you as a human being, I believe that should the Iraqis try again to build a reactor through which they can produce atomic weapons, Israel will use all the possibilities at its disposal to destroy this reactor."

According to a Central Intelligence Agency memorandum dated in 1974 and released in 1973, Israel has several nuclear weapons, though the Israeli Government's official position is that the Jewish nation will not be the first to introduce such arms into the Middle East. The Israeli assessment of Iraq is that its leadership is irrational and would not be deterred from a first strike by the expectation of being similarly attacked.

Would Israel attack a Libyan reactor? "Let us deal first with that meshuguhn, Saddam Hussein," Mr. Begin remarked to laughter. Meshuguhn is a Yiddish word for "crazy person." Sad-